

The Helena Independent.

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HELENA, MONTANA TERRITORY, SUNDAY MORNING, APRIL 28, 1889.

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BRAVE SAILORS.

A Letter From the Secretary of the Navy to Rear Admiral Kimberly.

High Praise of the Management of the Ships in the Samoan Hurricane.

Sympathy Expressed With the Families of the Drowned—Heroism in Time of Peace.

WASHINGTON, April 27.—Secretary Tracy today addressed a letter to Rear Admiral Kimberly acknowledging reception of reports from the admiral and other officers narrating the circumstance of the disaster at Samoa. The secretary adds: "I need not say to you that this event has caused the department profound sorrow, which, as the appalling extent and character of the catastrophe became known, was reflected throughout the country. Even if the navy were possessed of an adequate number of ships to supply the necessities of service, the loss of three at one blow would be a serious diminution of the available cruising force to a navy passing, as is that of the United States, through a stage of transition. When most of it previously existing vessels have disappeared and its new fleet is only on the threshold of existence, the blow comes with crippling force. The department learns with the deepest pain that the wreck resulted in the death of four officers and forty-seven men. However severely the destructive fire that ever occurred in the east of Arkansas took place here to-day, resulting in the total loss of over forty houses. A powerful gale was blowing at the time. The loss is \$150,000 to \$200,000, with about \$75,000 insurance.

"The hurricane at Samoa has brought affliction to many a household, which will receive the deepest sympathy of the government. It cannot be said that those who died thus manfully facing danger in the execution of their duty have died in vain. After reviewing at some length the details of the reports and noting with satisfaction the conduct of and commending various officers, the secretary continues: "It appears that the conduct of those under your command evinced throughout that courage, resolution and fortitude which the United States has learned always to expect from her officers and seamen. When her British majesty's ship Calliope, fortunate in the possession of more powerful engines, succeeded in her gallant effort to pass the Trenton and steam out of the harbor against the hurricane, a ringing cheer from the American flagship, as her crew were standing in the face of death, showed a spirit alike generous and dauntless. During the whole of Saturday, when the Trenton was helplessly dragging her anchors on the verge of destruction, the officers preserved their composure and heroic bearing and directed her movements with consummate skill. At the close of the day, when she brought up alongside of the Vandalla, her officers and men, notwithstanding the suffering through which they had passed and the dangers by which they were still surrounded, thought only of doing their duty to assist their comrades of the Vandalla, whose distress was greater than their own, while under an inspiration of sentiment which has awakened a response in every American heart the band of the ship, in view of the grave responsibilities resting on you in Samoa, by the certainty of an overwhelming danger to your fleet which could not then be ignored; that you rightly decided to remain at your post, and that the department, even in the face of the terrible disaster which it involved, approves absolutely your decision, which has set an example to the navy that should never be forgotten. To consider a court of inquiry under these circumstances would seem to imply a doubt on the part of the department where no doubt exists, and instead of ordering an investigation it tends to you, and through you to the officers and men of your command, its sympathy for the exposures and hardships you have encountered, and its profound thanks for the fidelity with which you performed your duty in a crisis of appalling danger."

Coast Defense Vessel to be Built.

WASHINGTON, April 27.—Secretary Tracy has decided that he has authority under the law to proceed with the construction of the great coast defense vessel. There will be no readjustment, and the only question yet to be decided is which of the three bids submitted shall be accepted. Cramp's bid was the lowest, but the Union Iron Works, of California, whose bid was but \$14,000 above him, are likely to secure the work, in consideration of the fact that they absolutely guarantee the success of the ship for the amount of their bid, which was \$1,528,000. This decision of the secretary will involve the abandonment of the idea of building a submarine torpedo boat.

The Crops.

WASHINGTON, April 27.—The weather and crop bulletin for the week ending April 27, says in all the states west of the Mississippi from the gulf northward to Minnesota and Dakota the weather was favorable for all crops and fruit, which are reported in splendid condition, and corn planting is progressing rapidly. A deficiency in rainfall from Kentucky northward to Michigan has retarded the growth of crops, which are greatly in need of rain.

CHICAGO, April 27.—Reports from Da-

kota, Minnesota, Nebraska, Iowa and Wisconsin, say on the spring wheat belt seedings were completed about the 23d; that the rains have been heavy enough to make a good stand, but that more is needed to make it stand out well, and that there must be a good soaking rain to complete the crop. In the northern portion of the winter wheat belt wheat averages 4 to 8 inches high now; in the central portion 8 to 20; in the southern portion 12 to 24, with early varieties beginning to head. The general conditions are highly favorable.

The Railway Mail Service.

WASHINGTON, April 27.—On and after next Wednesday, May 1, the railway mail service will be subject to the civil service law, rules and regulations, and all appointments to positions other than those excepted by law will thereafter be made only upon certification from the civil service commission. An effort has been made to induce the president to again extend the time at which the law bringing the railway mail service under the civil service law and rules would become operative, but he has decided against further postponement.

National Capital Notes.

WASHINGTON, April 27.—Postmaster General Wamamaker has issued an order that hereafter the postoffice department will be closed on Sunday to clerks and all employees except the required watchmen, engineers and firemen.

J. M. Baker, Michigan, has been appointed assistant superintendent of the railway mail service. Francis A. Weaver, of Pennsylvania, has been appointed chief of the division of lands and railways in the interior department.

DISASTROUS FIRES.

Nearly \$200,000 Loss in Arkansas—Buena Vista, Col., Scorched—Other Blazes.

JONESBORO, Ark., April 27.—The most destructive fire that ever occurred in northeast Arkansas took place here to-day, resulting in the total loss of over forty houses. A powerful gale was blowing at the time. The loss is \$150,000 to \$200,000, with about \$75,000 insurance.

A Colorado Blaze.

BUENA VISTA, Col., April 27.—At 2 o'clock this morning fire broke out in the rear of a vacant building in a business block on Main street, owned by Nat. Rich, and before water could be turned on the fire communicated to adjoining buildings on either side and rapidly spread till about half the block was in flames. Intense heat blistered paint and cracking glass in all the windows in the opposite street. The total loss aggregates \$75,000. The insurance is light. The buildings burned are owned by C. Persson.

Three Burned to Death.

PARKERSBURG, April 27.—The dwelling of James Hannish, near Hookerville, Nicholas county, burned Wednesday night, and Hannish's wife and two children were burned to death. Hannish was away from home at the time.

Carpet Mills Burned.

LOWELL, Mass., April 27.—The carpet mills of the Lowell manufacturing company burned this morning; loss \$200,000, insured.

SPORTING INTELLIGENCE.

Yesterday's Races at Memphis and Lexington—Base Ball Notes.

MEMPHIS, Tenn., April 27.—The weather was pleasant, the track fast but a little dusty, and the attendance large.

Three-year old and upwards, three-quarters of a mile: Mule won, Arma H. second and Cassandra third. Time, 1:18.

In the two-year old race two and three-eighths miles, Riley won, Lyle B. second, and Amelia third. Time, 1:05.

In the race for three-year old fillies, one and one-eighth miles, Keweenaw won, Mandolin second and Entry third. Time, 1:38.

All ages, one and a half miles—Long Chance won, Storey Montgomery second, Cassius third. Time, 2:11.

Three-year old and upwards, three-fourths of a mile: Syntax won, Rambler second, and Orderly third. Time, 1:18.

Three-year old and upwards, three-eighths of a mile: Chickasaw won, Duhire second, and Bessie third. Time, 1:35.

In the race for all ages, seven-eighths of a mile: Montpelier won, Mala second, and Leman third. Time, 1:33.

The Lexington Meeting.

LEXINGTON, Ky., April 27.—There were good weather and a fast track to-day.

In the race for two-year-olds, half mile, Peyton won, Silicia second, Venture third. Time, 51.

In the race for three-year-olds and upwards, six furlongs, 1 Take View won, May second, and J. C. Bennett third. Time, 46.

In the race for three-year-olds and upwards, one mile and seventy yards, Teuton won, Early Dawn second, and Louis d'Or third. Time, 1:40.

In the race for three-year-olds and upwards, one mile, Castaway won, Stuart second, and Red Letter third. Time, 1:44.

The Base Ball Record.

CHICAGO, April 27.—The games at Pittsburgh, Baltimore and Brooklyn were postponed on account of rain and at New York and Washington because of wet grounds.

INDIANAPOLIS, April 27.—Cleveland won a second victory from Indianapolis today by superior batting. Score: Indianapolis, 2; Cleveland, 4. Batteries: Indianapolis, Boye and Myers; Cleveland, O'Brien and Zimmer.

Extraordinary Shooting.

DAYTON, Ohio, April 27.—In the shoot at the Kennel Club range this afternoon, the new American Association rules governing, Rolla O. Herkes broke 100 standard targets straight. Keenan, who was in the race with Herkes, broke 94.

English Hurdle Racing.

LONDON, April 27.—At the Sandown Park club second spring meeting to-day the great Santolin hurdle race (handicap) about two miles, over eight flights of hurdles, was won by Abington's Tommy Upton.

ACROSS THE RANGE.

Dealings in Mining Stocks at Butte—The Anaconda's New Iron Building.

BUTTE, April 27.—[Special to the Independent.]—There has been unusual activity in the mining market in Butte this week, and mining brokers all report more sales than in any preceding week. The transactions were all in substantial stocks, such as Granite Mountain, which stiffened up to \$49, and Bi-Metallic, which was a free seller at \$41.50. Hope remained firm at \$4.50 bid and \$5 asked, while there was considerable dealing in Poorman at 90 cents. Mining brokers report an unusual interest in substantial Montana mining stocks, and are unanimous in predicting a great year for the mining industry all over the territory.

There has been a more uneasy feeling than heretofore among copper men as to the red metal, on account of the absence of definite news from the great copper conference at Paris. The superintendents of the leading mines of the camp around direct communication with Paris, and all state that the conference is still in session. While it is a little too much to say that there is a feeling of uneasiness, it is still true that it is feared the conference is hanging fire and that a disagreement is possible. There are not wanting those who say that a sharp fall in copper would actually benefit Montana mines, as all are able to produce as low as the lowest. It would be the smaller concerns that would be forced out of production by a fall in prices, thus giving an opportunity to work off the immense surplus which will continue to threaten the market until disposed of.

Engineer McFarland, of the Anaconda company, is back from the east. It will be remembered that the INDEPENDENT interviewed him, as he went east, in regard to replacing the smelter destroyed by fire with an iron structure. He thought favorably of the plan then, and since his return states that the contract for the building has been let. There can be little doubt that his report is true. A telegram received from Marcus Daly to-night announces that he left St. Paul on his way to Butte this evening. Details of his plans will probably be learned on his arrival Monday evening.

The Bennett Brothers company held their annual meeting last evening. Mr. Nelson Bennett having come from the Pacific coast to be present. The meeting resulted in the selection of the following officers: Nelson Bennett, president; Willard Bennett, vice-president and general manager; E. E. Congdon, treasurer, and Sewall Davis secretary. These officers are all re-elected, with the exception of Sewall Davis, who is elected in place of Thomas Morgan, of Deer Lodge. This change is caused by transferring the general officers of the company from Deer Lodge to Butte.

For the Constitutional Convention.

BILLINGS, April 27.—[Special to the Independent.]—The Republican county convention to-day nominated O. F. Goddard as delegate to the constitutional convention, and endorsed Haskell of Glendive, the Dawson county nominee. Word was received by wire that Dawson would endorse Goddard of Yellowstone.

GREAT FALLS, April 27.—[Special to the Independent.]—The democratic primary convention this evening was attended by leading citizens, who evinced much interest in the proceedings. The meeting was animated and harmonious. Judge Huey presided and County Treasurer Clark was secretary. The following delegates were chosen separately by acclamation: J. B. Leslie, George W. Taylor, Thomas E. Brady, J. Matthews, J. K. Clark, Phil Garlach, Paris Gibson, Dr. Crutcher and Chas. Wegner. Messrs. Stewart and Nelson, of the smelter, were also elected. The alternates are: A. F. Schmitz, J. N. Bridges, J. W. Stanton, J. Gerin, P. Sweeney and J. R. Payne. Republican primaries were likewise held this evening. The delegates were chosen by wards.

GRANT'S BIRTHDAY.

The Occasion Celebrated at New York—Remarks by Gen. Buckner, of Kentucky.

NEW YORK, April 27.—The second annual banquet in commemoration of the birth of Gen. Grant was held to-night at Delmonico's, Hon. Chauncey M. Depew presiding. One hundred and sixty guests were present. Among them were Gen. Sherman, Attorney General Miller, Secretary Noble, Gov. Buckner of Kentucky, U. S. Grant, Jr., Gen. Schofield, Gen. Howard and Calvin S. Brice. Letters of regret were received from President Harrison, ex-President Cleveland, Vice President Morton, Gov. Hill and others.

Gen. Buckner said he would not be true to the southern people if he did not say "we love the memory of Gen. Grant." It is fortunate for the country, and fortunate for the south particularly, that we did not succeed in the late contest," Gen. Buckner testified to a strong friendship for Gen. Grant, to whom he surrendered at Appomattox. "That night I shall never forget. Out of hearing out of his soldiers Grant took me and tendered me the use of his purse. In the modesty of his nature he desired to hide the act in the dark. On his death bed his character shone out above his sufferings. He could not speak, but wrote me that he would be happy if he could know that there was complete unity of the country."

An Old-Timer Dead.

RED LODGE, April 27.—[Special to the Independent.]—Frank Emmons, an old-timer, was found dead in the mountains about six miles south of here on Friday. Exposure caused his death.

On Official Business.

RED LODGE, April 27.—[Special to the Independent.]—Surveyor-General Greene and Col. Schultze are here on official business.

SAMOAN MATTERS.

The Berlin Conference Begun, England, Germany and the United States Participating.

A National-Liberal Journal Whose Voice is for War—Bismarck's Position.

Probability that the Disputed Points Will be Settled Without Serious Difficulty.

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BERLIN, April 27.—The members of the commission to consider the questions concerning Samoa have seen Bismarck and Count Herbert. The former expressed his confidence that the conference would be harmonious. The foreign office seems to be assured of the early termination of the negotiations. The commission, however, expect the sittings will be protracted for several months, especially if the charges against Klein, involving claims against the American government, are brought up. Bismarck certainly intends to place the evidence of Brunels, Knappe and others before the conference, but he has abandoned the claims for indemnity arising from Klein's action. This concession ought to shorten the proceedings. The claim against the Samoans for plundering German traders and planters will be maintained. There is occasion to believe England supports the principal German demands. The fact that the American delegates are not empowered to admit an amount of indemnity is not likely to give rise to any disagreement, being merely the custom. As to the accuracy of the claims presented, the foreign office's method of levy presents difficulties, and from the nature of communications between Count Herbert Bismarck and the Hamburg firms interested in Samoa it is surmised the indemnity will take the form of extended land concessions supervised by a land court composed of representatives from Samoa, Germany, England and the United States. Bayard's scheme of government, which included a royal council and legislature composed of two houses, in which the three powers will be represented, will not be entertained, Bismarck adhering to the principle of non-interference with the local government. Official papers rather affect indifference toward the conference.

The Cologne Gazette briefly concludes that a favorable result is already assured. A strongly phrased article in the Magdeburg Gazette, a national-liberal paper, is in marked contrast with the reserved tone of the general press. This paper declares that German honor requires punishment of the assassins of Dec. 18, and it demands protection for planters by permanent settlement of the whole Samoan group in the lines followed by England in Egypt. The article misrepresents both official and public feeling.

Count Herbert Bismarck, after an informal greeting, gave a reception to all the commissioners.

A programme has been arranged for the opening of the conference on Monday. Kason and Phelps have already made a favorable impression on the German and English officials. The idea prevails in the foreign office that Phelps will become chief of the American legation.

The emperor's reception of the commission yesterday brought out a host of visitors. A number of triumphal arches were erected and there was ringing of bells, firing of cannon, etc., in honor of the occasion.

Chronic misfortune attends German enterprise in East Africa. The Wisman expedition has effected nothing yet and the whole credit voted by the reichstag has been swallowed up. The excess in expenditure will necessitate an immediate appeal to the reichstag for a further credit, thus confirming the progressist predictions that the government calculations of cost of colonizing operations would prove recklessly false. The explorer Kollier, in an address at the colonial conference at Munich, declared Capt. Wisman would fail to re-establish German authority unless he was backed by an ample force of German troops. He predicted that Wisman's mercenaries would revolt at the first chance and join the Arabs. In the meantime the commerce of the interior is annihilated, Indian traders reporting an absolute cessation of traffic.

Prince Bismarck Administers Taft.

BERLIN, April 27.—The delegates to the Berlin conference are delighted with the reception accorded them by Bismarck. The chancellor was especially cordial to Mr. Bates, who explained that the article on Samoa in the Century magazine was written long before he was nominated as a delegate to the conference and that after his nomination he tried to withdraw the article, but in vain, as thousands of copies had been printed. Bismarck showed perfect familiarity with the conference. He expressed the hope that the conference would be brief. He frequently referred to the diplomatic and parliamentary experience of Mr. Kason and Mr. Phelps. The first sitting was at 2 p. m. to-day, at the foreign office.

Billings Wins the Prize.

BILLINGS, April 27.—[Special to the Independent.]—At a meeting of citizens this evening sufficient encouragement was given to guarantee that Billings will be the location of the wool-scouring plant of which E. J. Sherry, of Franklin, Mass., is the representative. The mill will cost \$50,000 and will have a capacity of 24,000 pounds per diem, employing from sixty to eighty skilled men. A meeting will be held Monday evening for perfecting arrangements, and the building will be begun early in the coming week.

A Youthful Murderer.

PITTSBURGH, April 27.—News of a fearful tragedy, with children as principals, comes from Mulvain, Carroll county, Ohio. Charley Deckman, five years old, and his cousin, Johnny Hexamer, eight years old, quarreled over a playing ground. Hexamer becoming enraged, seized a shotgun and shot Charley Deckman in the head, inflicting a wound from which he soon died. The Hexamer boy was knocked down and seriously injured by the recoil of the gun.